Success Rule for Life

وَلَا تَقُولَنَّ لِشَيْءٍ إِنِّي فَاعِلٌ ذَٰلِكَ غَدًا

“And never say of anything, ‘Indeed, I will do that tomorrow.’”
— Surah Al-Kahf 18:23

There are many rules for success that people talk about: hard work, consistency, discipline, patience, learning, persistence, and determination.

But for me, this single verse contains a lesson that reaches far beyond ordinary advice about productivity.

I call it my **Success Rule for Life**.

A Golden Rule from the Book of Guidance

When I read:

وَلَا تَقُولَنَّ لِشَيْءٍ إِنِّي فَاعِلٌ ذَٰلِكَ غَدًا

I see a powerful reminder about how we should look at our future.

We make plans every day.

“I will study tomorrow.”

“I will start tomorrow.”

“I will finish it tomorrow.”

“I will change tomorrow.”

But tomorrow is not guaranteed to us.

We can plan for tomorrow, but we cannot control tomorrow.

This verse reminds me that my plans depend upon Allah ﷻ.

That is why the very next verse says:

إِلَّا أَن يَشَاءَ اللَّهُ

“Except [when you say], ‘If Allah wills.’”
— Surah Al-Kahf 18:24

This does not mean that we should stop planning or stop working.

Rather, we should **work, plan, make effort, and remain humble before Allah**.

Something That I Am Still Trying to Understand

There is another question that has stayed in my mind.

Why does Allah ﷻ mention this command immediately after the story of the **Ashab al-Kahf — the Companions of the Cave**?

The story of the young believers who sought refuge in the cave is one of the remarkable stories of Surah Al-Kahf. Allah preserved them for many years, while they themselves could not know what would happen to them.

Then, immediately after this account, Allah teaches us:

“And never say of anything, ‘Indeed, I will do that tomorrow,’ except [when you say], ‘If Allah wills.’”

I am still studying the connection between these verses.

Perhaps one of the lessons is that **human beings make plans, but Allah controls the outcome**.

The Companions of the Cave could not have known how long they would remain in the cave. Their future was completely in Allah's knowledge.

Their story itself demonstrates something that we experience every day:

We do not know what tomorrow will bring. Allah does.

I do not want to claim that this is the only explanation of the connection. I am still learning, and perhaps as my understanding of the Qur'an grows, I will discover more dimensions in these verses.

And perhaps that is part of the beauty of studying the Qur'an: **the more you learn, the more you realize how much there is still to learn.**

The Rule I Want to Apply to My Life

Regardless of how much I understand about the deeper connection between these verses, one lesson has become very important to me.

I want to stop treating tomorrow as something that I own.

If I have something beneficial to do today, I should make a sincere effort to do it today rather than constantly pushing it forward.

I want to build:

- **Hard work**
- **Consistency**
- **Discipline**
- **Patience**

- **Learning**
- **Persistence**
- **Good intentions**
- **Trust in Allah**

But alongside all of these, I want to remember:

إِلَّا أَن يَشَاءَ اللَّهُ

“If Allah wills.”

I make the effort.

Allah decides the result.

I plan.

Allah knows what tomorrow contains.

I work today.

I do not assume that tomorrow belongs to me.

Learning the Qur'an

There is another reason these verses are meaningful to me.

I am trying to learn the Qur'an, but I do not know Arabic very well. Even reading Arabic with the correct **zabar, zair, pesh, and other harakāt** can sometimes be difficult for me.

Yet I believe that difficulty should not stop me from learning.

The Qur'an is a Book of Guidance, and I want to continue studying it carefully, learning its Arabic, its tafsir, its context, and the life of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

I also remind myself that understanding the Qur'an is ultimately a blessing from Allah.

The more I learn, the more I realize that the Qur'an is not a book that we simply finish reading once.

It is a book that we continue to **study, reflect upon, and live by**.

My Reflection

Perhaps this is what makes this verse so powerful for me.

It is only a few words, but it makes me question the way I live my life.

How many things have I said I would do tomorrow?

How many times have I assumed that I would have another day?

How many plans have I made without remembering the One who controls tomorrow?

So I want to take this verse as a personal rule:

Work today. Plan for tomorrow. Never forget who controls tomorrow.

And whenever I speak about what I will do in the future, I want to remember:

إِن شَاءَ اللَّهُ — If Allah wills.

Not merely as words that we say automatically, but as a genuine recognition that **Allah ﷻ is in control of our future**.

This is my reflection on one of the verses of the Book of Guidance.

And perhaps, as I continue studying the Qur'an, I will understand its deeper meanings more clearly.

Allah knows best.